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### **Antoine Kirkwood Sentenced to 50 Years in Prison for Manslaughter & Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Felon**

(Austin, TX) A Travis County jury this week convicted Antoine Kirkwood of Manslaughter in the May 2018 accidental shooting death of 47 year old Eugene Howell. The 36 year old Kirkwood was also found guilty of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Felon.

The jury sentenced Kirkwood to 50 years for manslaughter and the 20 year maximum for Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Felon. Kirkwood had previously been to prison for Aggravated Robbery and Possession of Marijuana, 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Amount.

In the early morning of May 19, 2018 there were calls to 911 to report a fight between two men in the parking lot of Bender Bar and Grill at 321 W. Ben White Blvd. Witnesses say they saw Kirkwood and Howell get into a physical altercation. Later they saw Kirkwood pull out a gun. As the fight continued, Kirkwood was punched and when he swung back with gun in hand, he hit Howell in the chest and the gun went off, shooting Howell in the head.

Kirkwood fled the scene. Howell was later pronounced dead at the scene. Besides witnesses, the shooting was caught on a security video camera.

Travis County Assistant District Attorney Erik Nielsen says the outcome of the trial sends a clear message. "This verdict is a reflection of our community's abhorrence to gun violence. We appreciate the dedicated work of our law enforcement officers for their thorough investigation into this crime and are thankful that the victim's family has a measure of justice and closure of this tragic time in their lives," said Nielsen.

Nielsen tried the case with Travis County Assistant District Attorney David Levingston. It was heard in the 403<sup>rd</sup> Criminal District Court before Judge Brenda Kennedy.

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